Sale of spurious drugs

†514. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of spurious drugs fall within the category of offence of mass killing;

(b) if so, the number of chemists dealing in spurious drugs convicted during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the details of the action taken against the dealers of spurious drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Section 27 of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder prescribes penalty for manufacture, sale etc. of spurious/adulterated drugs. Any drug deemed to be adulterated under Section 17 A or spurious under section 17 B or which when used by any person or in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of any disease or disorder is likely to cause his death or is likely to cause such harm on his body as would amount to grievous hurt within the meaning of Section 32 of IPC solely on account of such drug being adulterated as spurious or not of standard quality, as the case may be, shall be punishable with the imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 5 years but which may extended to a term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000/-.

(b) and (c) As per the feedback available from State Licensing Authorities of Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi, during the period 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001, 01.4.2001 to 26.11.2001 and 27.11.2001 to 30.11.2002, 93 persons were apprehended for manufacturing and trading of spurious drugs whereas during the period 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02, 563, 651 and 501 prosecutions were launched out of which 163, 245 and 165 cases were decided respectively.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.